

laborers on Southern Railway with effect from 01.04.1987. On completion of 4 months' service, they were granted temporary status with effect from 01.08.1987. Under the decasualization scheme, 284 catering cleaners were empanelled for regular absorption in 1997. The catering cleaners so empanelled are treated as regular railway employees with effect from the date of their empanelment and their regular service will be counted for pensionary benefits. This has been made applicable to all catering cleaners of Southern Railway including those belonging to Trivandrum Division.

Connecting Bedi Port and Porbandar

2692. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURYAKANT ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide freight corridor from Mumbai to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the new developments considered for Gujarat;

(c) whether Porbandar and Bedi Ports broad gauge missing linkage is considered;

(d) if so, the status thereof;

(e) whether Government have received proposal for providing missing link connecting Bedi Port and Porbandar Port from the Government of Gujarat/GMB;

(f) if so, whether Government are considering the same; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Western corridor of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Project has been sanctioned in Railway Budget 2006-07. The corridor will start from Jawaharlal Nehru Port and will be routed *via* Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Palanpur and Rewari to Tuglakabad and Dadri.

(b) Project will involve construction of more than 500 route kilometer of New Line in the State.

(c) to (g) State Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) had requested for providing broad gauge link to Porbandar and Bedi Ports. It was advised that connectivity to Porbandar Port will be financially unviable and can be built by the Port as a private siding. As regards Bedi Port, GMB had carried out certain studies and the report is submitted to Ministry of Railways.

Facilities to disabled

†2693. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi had directed his Ministry by issuing a notice that proper facilities should be provided to the disabled during rail journey and at railway stations;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the facilities Government propose to provide to the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. A Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Honourable Delhi High Court wherein Ministry of Railways is one of the respondents.

(b) In pursuance of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation), Act, 1995, Railways have provided the following seven short-term facilities at 3000 stations comprising all 'A' category stations and few 'B' category stations. These facilities have been planned for remaining 'B' category stations also.

1. Standard ramp for Barrier free entry,
2. Earmarking parking lots for vehicles used by Disabled Persons,
3. Non-shppery walkway,
4. Signage,
5. Toilets,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.